RETAIL PRICES - DECEMBER QUARTER, 1945.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index numbers for December quarter 1945 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 1074, Toowoomba 1088, Rockhampton 1080, Townsville 1114, Bundaberg 1056 and Warwick 1071.

The figures show the following percentage increases or decreases when compared with those for the periods shown.

City	December Quarter, 1945 - Percentage Increase or Decrease Compared with -		
	Year ended June 1939	December Quarter 1944	September Quarter 1945
Brisbane	24.4	0.5	0.5
Toowoomba	27.8	0.4	0.3
Rockhampton	25.4	0.8	0.3
Townsville	22.1	-0.2	0.5
Bundaberg	25.6	-	0.7
Warwick	30.3	0.9	0.5

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc., have shown the following percentage changes during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

City	Food and Groceries		Clothing and Footwear		Miscellaneous Items	
	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Sept. Qr., 1945.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Sept. Qr., 1945.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Sept. Qr., 1945.
Brisbane ..	12.5	-0.2	74.4	1.8	19.1	-0.1
Toowoomba ..	23.2	-0.4	71.0	1.2	18.6	0.1
Rockhampton	12.4	-0.9	74.1	1.7	21.1	0.2
Townsville..	9.9	0.1	72.3	1.3	18.1	-
Bundaberg ..	12.5	-0.7	72.3	2.8	17.9	0.1
Warwick ..	17.6	-0.4	74.7	1.9	21.4	0.2

Food and Rent (4 and 5 roomed houses) - "B" Series.

Index numbers for December quarter, 1945 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 922, Toowoomba 946, Rockhampton 911, Townsville 976, Bundaberg 880 and Warwick 893.

From September quarter 1945 to December quarter 1945 the "B" Series Index showed decreases in Brisbane 0.1%, Toowoomba 0.1%, Rockhampton 0.5%, Bundaberg 0.5% and Warwick 0.3%. Townsville increased 0.1%. The decreases were caused mainly by a seasonal drop in the price of eggs which was offset slightly by a rise in beef prices in the month of December.

The rent index increased in Toowoomba (0.2%) and Rockhampton (0.1%) but remained stationary in all other towns.

Compared with December quarter 1944 the "B" Series index increased in Brisbane 0.3%, Toowoomba 0.1%, Rockhampton 0.6%, Townsville 0.1% and Warwick 0.7%, but decreased in Bundaberg 0.5%.

The main increases were in meat prices for all towns except Bundaberg where there was a small decrease in some meat cuts. Decreases were shown for all towns in Onions and Kerosene prices.

The rent index showed no movement in Brisbane and Townsville but small increases appeared in Toowoomba (0.2%), Rockhampton (0.3%), Bundaberg (0.3%) and Warwick (0.4%).

Increases were recorded in all towns for food and groceries compared with 1938-39, the percentage changes being shown in the second table on the previous page.

Comparison of Costs in Queensland Cities

The following table shows the amounts, for the various Queensland cities, necessary in December quarter 1945, to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City	All Items	Food and Groceries	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing and Footwear
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Brisbane ..	1. 0. 0.	1. 0. 0.	1. 0. 0.	1. 0. 0.
Toowoomba ..	1. 0. 3.	1. 0.10.	1. 0. 0.	19. 7.
Rockhampton ..	1. 0. 1.	1. 0.11.	17.10.	1. 0. 4.
Townsville ..	1. 0. 9.	1. 1.10.	1. 0. 1.	1. 0. 0.
Bundaberg ..	19. 8.	1. 1. 1.	15. 7.	1. 0. 0.
Warwick ..	19.11.	1. 0. 8.	17. 2.	19.11.

Comparison of Commonwealth and State Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

State	METROPOLITAN				STATE AVERAGES b.			
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Brisbane	Actual Basic Wage a.	Margin in Favour of Brisbane	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Queensland	State Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Q'land.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.
Queensland	1074	4.17. 0.	4.17. 0.	-	1077	4.17. 8.	4.17. 8.	-
N.S.W.	1147	5. 3. 7.	4.19. 0.	4. 7.	1145	5. 3.10.	4.19. 6.	4. 4.
Victoria	1137	5. 2. 8.	4.18. 0.	4. 8.	1133	5. 2. 9.	4.17.10.	4.11.
South Aust.	1106	4.19.11.	4.14. 0.	5.11.	1102	4.19.11.	4.14. 0.	5.11.
West. Aust.	1107	5. 0. 0.	5. 0. 1.	- 1.	1115	5. 1. 1.	5. 0. 7.	6.
Tasmania	1120	5. 1. 2.	4.14. 0.	7. 2.	1105	5. 0. 2.	4.13. 0.	7. 2.

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX

Table No.1 THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES
(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals)

CITY	Year Ended Dec. 1928	Year Ended June, 1939	Year Ended December 1945	QUARTERS ENDED - Decr. 1944	March 1945	June 1945	September 1945	December 1945
Brisbane ..	917	863	1072	1069	1071	1072	1069	1074
Toowoomba ..	906	851	1087	1084	1086	1088	1085	1088
Rockhampton ..	903	861	1079	1071	1077	1083	1077	1080
Townsville ..	1023	912	1114	1116	1117	1115	1109	1114
Bundaberg ..	(b)	841	1054	1056	1056	1053	1049	1056
Weighted Averages- Five Cities (a)	915	864	1075	1073	1075	1076	1073	1077
Warwick ..	914	822	1064	1061	1061	1059	1066	1071

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.
(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No.2. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.
(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

CITY	Year Ended Dec. 1928	Year Ended June 1939	Year Ended December 1945	QUARTERS ENDED - December 1944	March 1945	June 1945	September 1945	December 1945
Brisbane ..	901	852	924	919	924	926	923	922
Toowoomba ..	833	821	949	945	949	953	947	946
Rockhampton ..	858	837	917	906	918	922	916	911
Townsville ..	1047	916	979	975	980	983	975	976
Bundaberg ..	(b)	799	886	884	888	890	884	880
Weighted Average- Five Cities (a)	892	851	928	923	928	930	927	925
Warwick ..	841	768	891	887	888	886	896	893

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.
(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No.3. AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES-FOOD AND GROCERIES
Brisbane

Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	Year Ended June 1939	MONTH OF Sept. 1945	Dec. 1945	Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	Year Ended June 1939	MONTH OF Sept. 1945	Dec. 1945
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.33	5.50	5.50	Oats-flaked .. 1 lb.	3.57	4.25	4.17
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.09	4.09	Milk .. 1 qt.	6.00	7.10	7.10
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	27.05	27.05	Beef-Sirloin Roast .. 1 lb.	8.73	12.00	12.50
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.94	3.93	Beef-Steak Rump .. 1 lb.	11.34	17.00	17.50
Jam (Plum) 1½lb.	8.02	12.84	12.66	Beef-Steak Chuck .. 1 lb.	5.83	7.45	7.90
Raisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	12.91	12.91	Beef-Rolled Brisket .. 1 lb.	5.48	7.60	8.10
Potatoes .. 7 lb.	14.88	8.36	8.37	Mutton-Leg .. 1 lb.	7.75	8.50	8.50
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	2.96	2.38	Mutton-Chops Loin .. 1 lb.	7.78	9.00	9.00
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	6.97	6.97				
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	19.82	19.82				
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	15.09	15.09				
Eggs .. 1 doz.	19.69	22.00	22.00				

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN'S OFFICE,
BRISBANE
7th February, 1946.

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GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN.